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SAN FRANCISCO
SIGMA

The Society of Professional Journalists-Sigma Delta Chi opened Wednesday with the theme, "The News Media on Trial."

The theme was responsive to increasing criticisms of news media and governmental decisions the media view as attacks on its responsibilities - such as the decision to keep reporters out of Grenada during its invasion.

The convention opened with a reception in city hall and speakers will include Van Gordon Sauter, president of CBS, and media critics Ben Bagdikian and Jeff Greenfield.

Among other speakers are consumer reporter David Horowitz; Herb Schmertz, vice president of Mobil Oil, Creed Black, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Richard Salant of the National News Council and Reed Irvine, chairman of Accuracy in Media.

The board of directors took the first steps Wednesday toward undertaking \$2.4 million fund raising drive in connection with the 24,000-member group's 75th anniversary next year.

The board named Frank Snep, the author, and Brown and Bain, a Phoenix, Ariz., law firm, as recipients of the 1983 First Amendment Award.

The law firm has been involved in press representation for 20 years and in the last two years has operated a statewide press hot line. Snep is a former CIA agent whose royalties of \$250,000 from a book about the Vietnam War, "Decent Interval," were seized by the government on grounds that he violated a promise not to disclose classified material.

Some 800 delegates are attending the conclave.